



U.S. Department of Justice

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Florida Man Sentenced to 40 Months in Prison For Market Manipulation Scheme**

WASHINGTON - Jeffrey S. Mills, 48, a stock promoter from Longwood, Florida, was sentenced today to 40 months in prison in connection with his role in a nationwide stock fraud scheme, announced U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. and Daniel S. Cortez, Inspector in Charge, Washington Division, U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

Mills pled guilty in July 2007 to conspiracy and securities fraud in connection with his role in a nationwide pump and dump stock fraud scheme which utilized widely disseminated fraudulent voice-mails to induce numerous investors to buy stock at inflated prices.

He was sentenced today by the Honorable Ellen S. Huvelle in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. The judge also ordered Mills to serve 200 hours of community service and pay \$88,648 in restitution. In addition, he is to be placed on three years of supervised release upon completion of his prison term.

According to the government's evidence, in July and August 2004, Mills was hired by stock promoters to promote the publicly traded stock of several penny stocks that traded on the over-the-counter bulletin board exchange. Mills enlisted the help of co-conspirator Roderic Boling to work with him to create, and widely disseminate, fraudulent voice-mails to the answering machines and voice-mail systems of hundreds of thousands of investors in order to fraudulently induce those investors to purchase shares of the touted stocks at inflated prices.

Roderic Boling's wife, Anna, put her voice on the voice-mail messages, and they were distributed through the Telephone Broadcast Company, co-owned by Michael O'Grady.

The messages were designed to deceive prospective investors into believing that they had inadvertently received a confidential stock tip intended for a close friend of the person leaving the voice-mail message. They were distributed to tens of thousands of persons in the United States during the period of in or about July 25, 2004 through August 17, 2004.

Mills understood when he engaged in the fraud that others who held large positions in the stocks would be selling into the market at inflated prices. Mills himself sold more than 222,000 shares of one of the promoted stocks into the market during the time that he and his co-conspirators were illegally touting that stock. Mills also received approximately \$25,000 in proceeds from the sale of another stock that he promoted during the scheme.

The fraudulent voice-mail messages contained numerous materially false statements and misrepresentations, and the voice-mail campaign touting the stocks resulted in significant and dramatic increases in the price and volume of each of the stocks in a very short period of time.

Roderic Boling, Anna Boling and O'Grady have pleaded guilty to charges in connection with their roles in the scheme. Anna Boling and O'Grady were sentenced to terms of probation, and Roderic Boling is awaiting sentencing.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen Jr. and Inspector in Charge Cortez commended the work of U.S. Postal Inspection Service Special Agents Marydith Newman and Joshua Mehall, and U.S. Attorney's Office Paralegal Specialist Mary Treanor and Forensic Accountant Maria Boodoo, who assisted with financial analytic work in connection with the sentencing proceedings. They also commended former Assistant U.S. Attorneys Jonathan Barr and David Woll, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Tejpal Chawla, who prosecuted the case, as well as former Assistant U.S. Attorney Glenn Leon and Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew Solomon, who handled the sentencing hearings and related proceedings.

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